8

ef

a fairy tale of the two.

雅 樹里

原作：御影・鏡 遊

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C140-9

電撃コミックス

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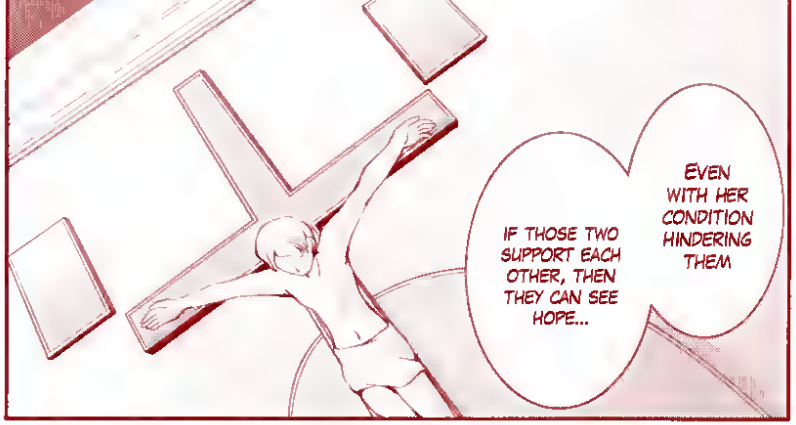

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Naru Nanao

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I believe everyone has
prayed to God at least once.

Even if they do not believe in
anything, the day where they
pray with all their heart
will definitely come.

For something that they
are searching for.

For something that they
are yearning for.

They reach out,
trying to attain it.

Formed by swirling emotions
and bonds between people,
that, lies ahead.

That, without a doubt...

Characters

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Yu Himura

Chihiro's chosen guardian. He's not related to the church but for some reasons he's always there. He's unsavorily tied to Kuse, who acts as an older brother to Renji.

Chihiro Shindou

A girl with an eye patch Renji met at the abandoned station. Has amnesia as a result of an accident. She has a mellow personality as opposed to her elder twin sister.

Renji Asou

A half-German boy whose father is an architect. He is a self appointed book junkie who loves to read. As a result of being transferred numerous times when he's overseas, he's bad at making friends.

Mizuki Hayama

Renji's cousin. Belongs to the basketball club affiliated to the neighboring Otobane Academy. Holds admiration for Chihiro's sister, Kei, and adores her.

Shuichi Kuze

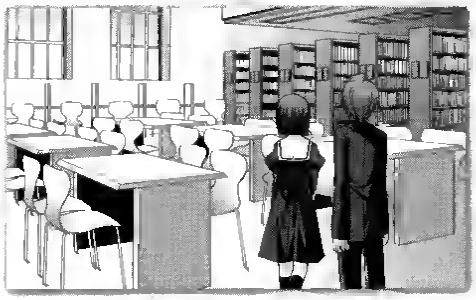
A spirited pro violinist who lives next to the Asou family. He behaves like an optimistic and passionate person, but he's actually a realist.

Sumire Asou

The doting mother of Renji. She has such a baby face and playfulness that she's often been mistaken as Renji's sister. She is working as a lecturer of a culinary classroom in the town.

Two. Only, Two.

Phase.42 The Beginning of the Tale



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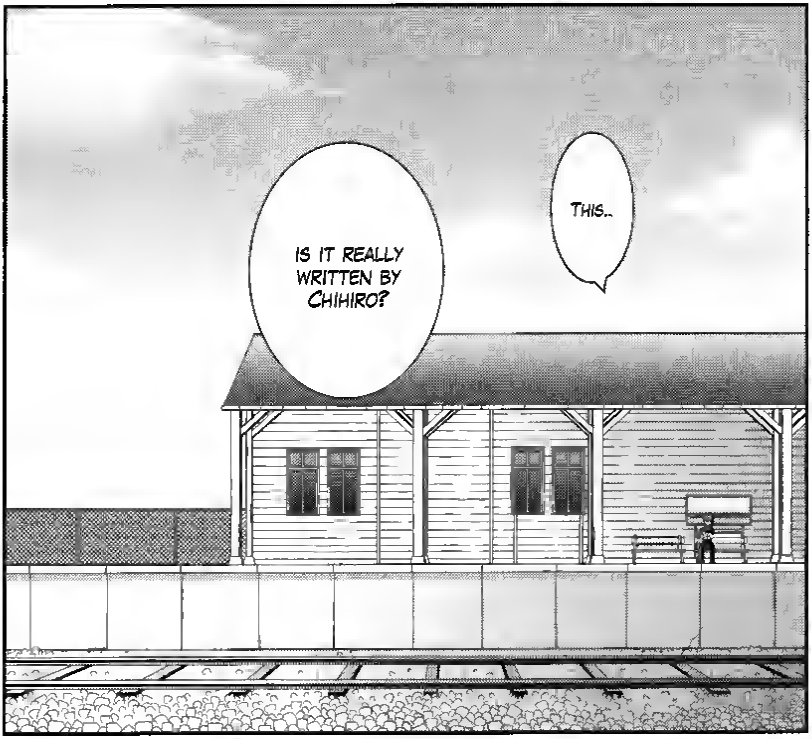
SIMILAR CONTENT WRITTEN END-LESSLY...
WHAT'S... WITH THIS?
パラ
パラ
パラ
EACH DAY'S CHIHIRO IS PROBABLY THINKING ABOUT THE SAME THING REPEATEDLY
WHICH WOULD GENERATE A DIFFERENT CONCLUSION
MORE-OVER,
THIS STORY BARELY HAS ANY NOUNS...

THE SCENERY OF THE WORLD THE GIRL LIVES FLOWS INTO MY MIND.
THE WRITING STYLE AND COMPOSITION ISN'T PARTICULARLY GOOD...
HOWEVER,
ぶるっ

SFX: Shivers

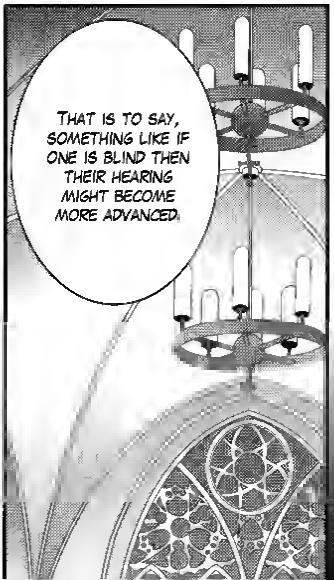

IS IT REALLY WRITTEN BY CHIHIRO?
THIS..

THAT'S A SIMPLE THING.
RENJI, YOU KNOW THAT CHIHIRO WRITES IN HER DIARY, LEAVING IT FOR THE CHIHIRO OF TOMORROW, RIGHT?
YEAH.
CHIHIRO'S DIARY IS FOR ALLOWING OTHERS TO ACCURATELY UNDERSTAND ABOUT HER ACTIONS.
THAT'S THE MAIN PURPOSE
THE CHIHIRO TODAY AND TOMORROW ARE TWO STRANGERS TO EACH OTHER.
I SEE... BUT

CHIHIRO
SHOULDN'T BE ABLE ACCUMULATE THAT KIND OF SKILL...

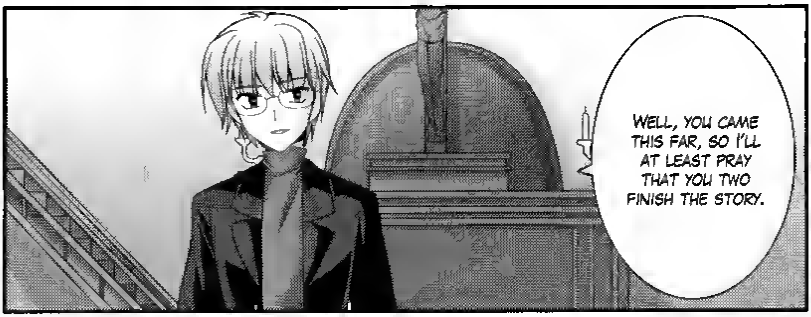
THAT'S NOT TO SAY THAT IT IS LEARNED, RATHER
THAT SHE ORIGINALLY HAD SUCH A TALENT.

Hm

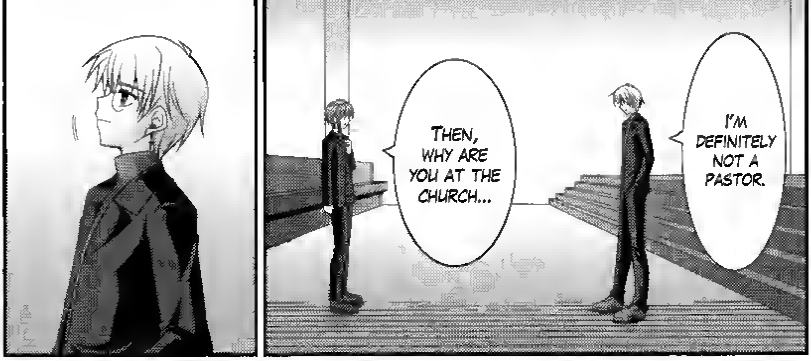

THAT IS TO SAY, SOMETHING LIKE IF ONE IS BLIND THEN THEIR HEARING MIGHT BECOME MORE ADVANCED.

EVEN IF SHE DOESN'T REMEMBER, HER BODY COULD HAVE REMEMBERED.
IT MIGHT EVEN BE HER PERSISTENT WILL TO CONVEY HERSELF TO OTHERS THAT CREATED THE DIFFERENCE.

I CAN'T BE ASSERTIVE.
HOWEVER, AS LONG AS THERE IS A PROBLEM, THERE'LL BE AN ASPECT THAT BECOMES MORE SENSITIVE.
IN SHORT...
CHIHIRO CAN'T MAINTAIN HER MEMORY. INSTEAD, HER ABILITY TO CONVEY TO HERSELF AND OTHERS IS STRENGTHENED.
WAS THE STORY THAT CHIHIRO WROTE REALLY THAT AMA-ZING?
EH?
AAH, WELL...


WELL, YOU CAME THIS FAR, SO I'LL AT LEAST PRAY THAT YOU TWO FINISH THE STORY.

SPEAK-ING OF WHICH
UM...
HIMURA-SAN ISN'T REALLY A PASTOR, RIGHT?


I'M DEFINITELY NOT A PASTOR.
THEN, WHY ARE YOU AT THE CHURCH...

I WAS WAITING FOR SOMEONE.

...PAST TENSE?
YEAH

A PERSON HIMURA-SAN IS WAITING FOR.
RENJI.
I'M NOT A PASTOR, NOR A COUNSELOR.
SO, I'M A PERSON THAT REALLY HAS NO QUALIFICATIONS TO PREACH
EVEN SO,
LET ME WARN YOU.
WRITING A NOVEL. OR PRETENDING TO BE FRIENDS.
DON'T DIVE TOO DEEP INTO CHIHIRO HERSELF.

CHIHIRO STILL ISN'T HERE... HUH.
SFX: Sits down
カタン.
UM.
RENJI-KUN... RIGHT?
THE SKY THAT I SEE EVERY DAY, IS NOT AN EVERYDAY THING TO CHIHIRO...

YEAH, THAT'S ME.
SORRY FOR HAVING YOU WAIT.
IT'S FINE, I DIDN'T REALLY COME ON THE PROMISED TIME EITHER.
..SPEAKING OF WHICH, IT IS MUCH COOLER OUT TODAY.
YEAH..
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
Ahchoo!
ARE YOU OKAY?
YEAH... SAWY.

IT SEEMS LIKE YOU HAVEN'T COMPLETELY RECOVERED FROM YOUR COLD, SO MOVING TO A WARMER PLACE WOULD BE. AH
IF IT'S OKAY, HOW ABOUT COMING TO MY HOUSE?
Sniff
音羽
UTOWA
ななはま
Nanahama
ER...
IS THAT REALLY OKAY?
IF CHIHIRO DOESN'T MIND
Aha-ha
Aha
WE-WELL, LET'S GO
...THINKING ABOUT A BOY'S HOUSE SOMEHOW MAKES MY HEART RACE
N-NOW THAT YOU SAY IT LIKE THAT IT'S ALSO MAKING MY HEART RACE...
おとわ

LAST BOSS
IN MY HOUSE, THERE'S THAT KIND OF MOTHER...!
RENJI-KUN... WHAT'S THE MATTER?
DAMN...
...CHIHIRO
THERE IS A PERSON THAT DOES WHATEVER THEY WANT LIVING WITH ME, BUT DON'T BE BOTHERED.
...?
OKAY, SURE.
ガ
イヤ

Oh, Renji
You're quite early today...Oh?
Come in
opens
closes
opens
Oh my, oh my, oh my?

Erm...
This is the friend I talked about before.
Nice to meet you, I am Shindou Chihiro.

Oh my, oh my~
Are you unable to say something other than "oh my?"
So that friend was a girl~
I am Asou Sumire, nice to meet you too.
Um, are you Renji-kun's older sister?

WIFE.
!!!?

.....
CHIHIRO, PLEASE DON'T TAKE IT SERIOUSLY...

I DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT, BUT SHE IS ACTUALLY MY MOTHER...
EH, MOTHER?

UM-CAN WE COME INSIDE NOW?
OH RIGHT. PLEASE, PLEASE
SORRY TO BOTHER.

YES.

S-SOMEHOW, SAYING SOMETHING LIKE THAT MAKES ME BLUSH.
SO THIS IS WHAT A GUY'S ROOM IS LIKE.
IT SMELLS DIFFERENT.
COME IN.

YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF BOOKS.
...AH.

RENJI-KUN ALSO HAS KAEDE YUZUMA-SAN'S BOOKS.
DO YOU LIKE HER BOOKS?
YEAH.
I BEGAN TO LIKE READING THIS AUTHOR'S PUBLICATIONS, AND THOUGHT THAT MAYBE I SHOULD WRITE A BOOK MYSELF
I SEE...
NOW THAT YOU SAY SO, IT SURE FEELS THE SAME
Chihiro and the author's writing
SHE PROBABLY HAD A GREAT IN-FLUENCE ON ME,
BE-CAUSE SHE'S AN AUTHOR THAT I REALLY LIKE
SPEAKING OF NOVELS,
I READ YOUR IDEA BOOK.
U...
AS I THOUGHT, THAT TOPIC IS UNAVOID-ABLE.
どよ
ANY-WAYS, SIT DOWN
I'LL GO MAKE SOME TEA.
ﾊｲﾊｲ

Hmph.
. SAVE YOUR FLATTERY.
CHIHIRO'S SHORT STORY WAS REALLY INTERESTING
THIS ISN'T FLATTERY,
IT'S HOW I REALLY FELT.
EVEN IF IT WAS JUST AN IDEA, THE SCENERY WAS FLOWING TO MY MIND CONTINUOUSLY
DO YOU HANDWRITE THE STORY?
NO. I USE A NOTEBOOK COMPUTER.
THEN, LET'S BEGIN.
WELL, THAT'S WHAT'S CUTE ABOUT HER
IT SEEMS LIKE SHE REALLY DOESN'T LIKE PEOPLE LOOKING AT HER WRITING
LET'S PRETEND THAT THAT'S HOW IT WAS.
.....

I AM ABLE TO TYPE AND SEND E-MAILS.
I BEGAN TO USE A COMPUTER SINCE I WAS SMALL.
SO YOU USED A COMPUTER.
THEN, EVEN AT THE STATION YOU CAN CONTINUE TO WRITE THE STORY.
NO. WITHOUT ANY RESOURCES, I WOULD BE UNABLE TO WRITE.
OH. I SEE.

SPEAKING OF RESOURCES, YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT BOOKS, RIGHT?
YEAH
THE GIRL INSIDE THE STORY ALSO COMES IN CONTACT WITH LOTS OF BOOKS.
clink
BOOKS ...HUH
AH.
AND THIS TOWN HAS NO PUBLIC LIBRARY
THE BOOKS INSIDE MY HOUSE ARE LIMITED.

CHIHIRO, HOW ABOUT THE LIBRARY AT SCHOOL?
AH, IT'S REALLY CLOSE TO THE IMAGE THAT I IMAGINED
HMMMM
...HOWEVER, I DON'T HAVE A SCHOOL UNIFORM, SO WOULD I BE ABLE TO ENTER ?
OH RIGHT, THE UNIFORM.

ANYWAYS, WE'LL SAVE THAT PLACE AS A CHOICE FOR NOW.
...UM, RENJI-KUN.
MM?
IN ORDER TO WRITE THIS SHORT STORY, THERE'S A REALLY IMPORTANT FAVOR THAT I HAVE TO ASK.

Please create a situation where I have to continue writing the story.
Eh?
The me today can write because there is still time left until the promised time
So, the feeling still hasn't passed away but-
Tomorrow or the day after tomorrow, there aren't any guarantees
I will try my best... but
This will probably be the hardest part.

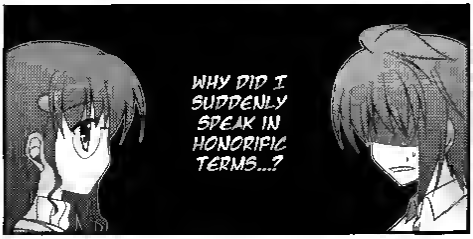
ガチャッ
Ah.
Chihiro-chan, if it's okay, why don't you stay for dinner?
Ah, I'm fine.
But thank you for your offer.
Chihiro, is it really okay that I don't walk you back?
Yes. It's still bright outside
I see
Be careful going back.
Come again anytime to play
Yes
Then, I'll see you at the usual place tomorrow.

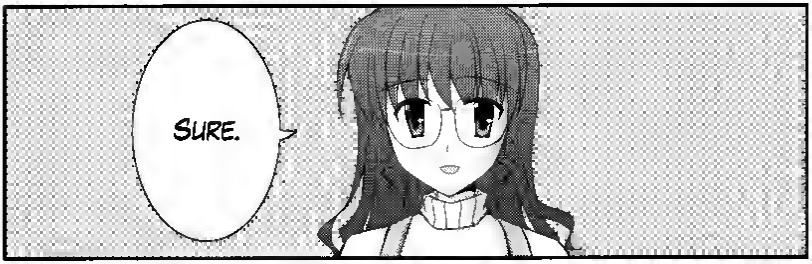
WHAT?
SO YOUR FRIEND WAS A GIRL~
IS THERE A PROBLEM WITH THAT?
YOU CAN'T TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HER IMMEDIATELY RIGHT AFTER YOU INVITE HER INTO YOUR ROOM.
GIRLS ARE VERY DELICATE ♡
kyaa♡
WHY DID IT COME TO SUCH A TOPIC...?
AS A MOTHER, I'M JUST A BIT WORRIED.

RENJI SEEMS TO BE GETTING MORE ACCUSTOMED TO THE SCHOOL.
You've transferred a lot
—AAH
MOM'S JUST CARING FOR ME IN HER OWN WAY.
THAT'S RIGHT. SPEAKING OF SCHOOL——
MOM IS THERE SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T WANT THEIR OTOWA UNIFORM?
EH, WHY?
AH... THERE'S A GIRL THAT I KNOW THAT'S GOING TO BE A TRANSPER STUDENT.
BUYING A NEW ONE WOULD COST MONEY.

IS THERE A GIRL IN THE COOKING CLASS THAT HAS A UNIFORM THAT THEY DON'T USE ANYMORE?
IF IT'S OKAY, I HOPE THAT YOU CAN ASK...

.....


WHY DID I SUDDENLY SPEAK IN HONORIFIC TERMS...?


SURE.

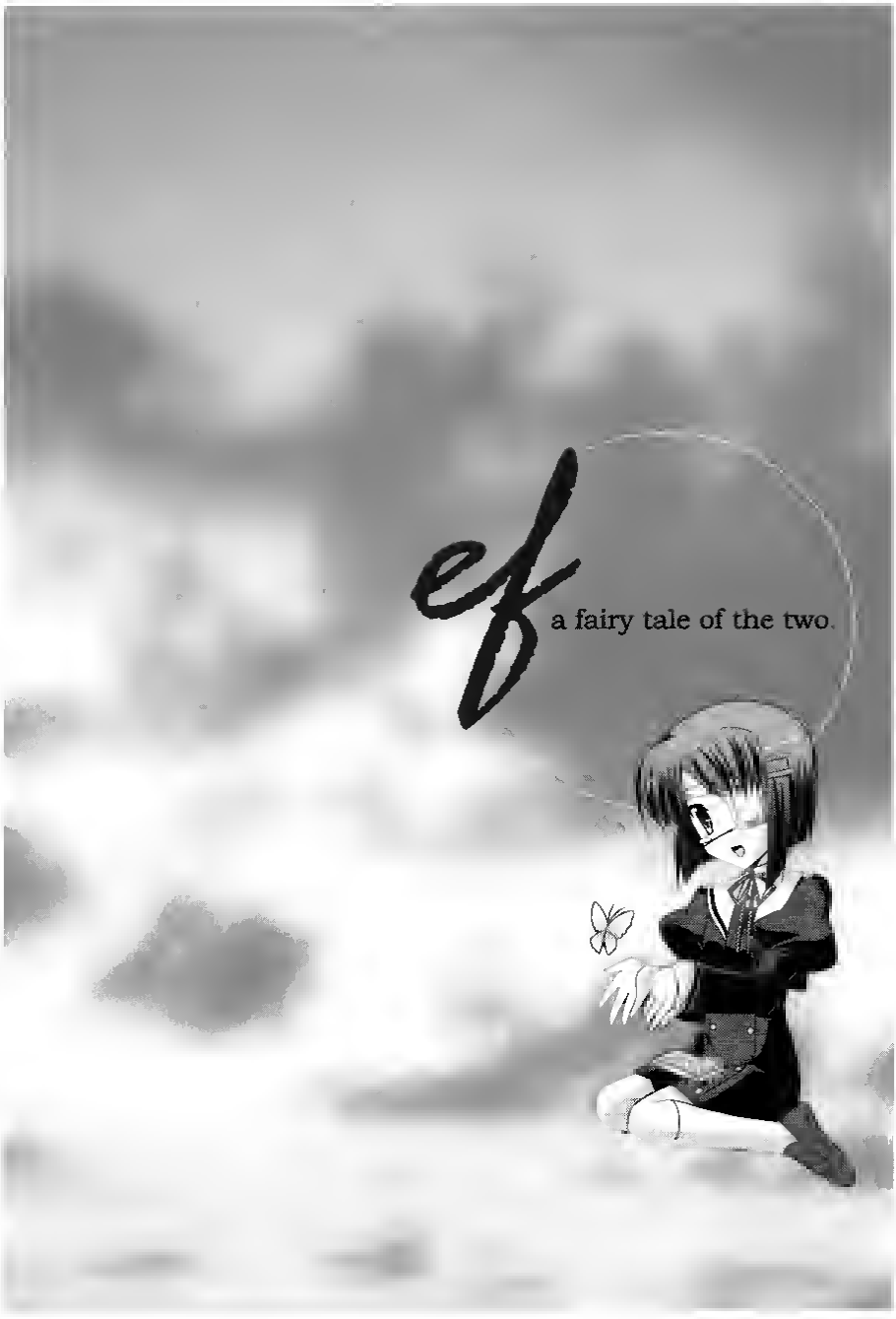
THIS SORT OF TOPIC OCCURS A LOT.
I-I SEE, THAT'S A RELIEF.

AH, SPEAKING OF WHICH
WH-WHAT?

A GIRL'S UNIFORM...

EH, YOU...
COULD YOU POSSIBLY BE CHIHIRO-CHAN?
EH?

YOU ARE...?
THAT'S RIGHT!
Pant
IT SEEMS LIKE KUZE-SAN HAS ONE.
A girl's uniform.
HEH?
KUZE-SAN..
WHY WOULD HE?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HTTP://OVERLOADSCANS.INFO/
COME VISIT US ON IRC!
#OVERLOADSCANS
ef
a fairy tale of the
RAWS: JCAFE
TRANSLATION: BATDREAM
PROOFREADING: LINKTRIFORCE007
EDITORS: LINKTRIFORCE007, RINGOCYGNUS
PHASE 42: THE BEGINNING OF THE TALE

AS I THOUGHT, IT'S CHIHIRO-CHAN.
MEETING YOU AT THIS KIND OF PLACE, HOW UNEXPECTED.
UM... SORRY.
I'm not some suspicious guy
AH, SORRY.
MY NAME IS KUZE SHUICHI. EVEN THOUGH I LOOK LIKE THIS, I'M HIMURA'S FRIEND.
HIMURA-SAN'S FRIEND...?
YEAH.

I'VE ACTUALLY SEEN YOU A FEW TIMES.
I KNOW EVERY-THING ABOUT YOU.
I... SEE.
SORRY.
NO, NO. THERE'S NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE.
Even though I said we've met it was only a few times.
BY THE WAY, ARE YOU ON YOUR WAY TO THE CHURCH?
AH, YES.
?
IT'S ABOUT TO GET DARK.
I'LL ESCORT YOU.
..HMM.

EH . THAT WOULD BE A BOTHER FOR YOU.
AFTER MEETING A FEMALE ACQUAINTANCE, IT'S AGAINST MY POLICY TO JUST GREET AND LEAVE.
POLICY .?
I'VE ALSO GOT SOME BUSINESS WITH HIMURA.
OKAY?
OKAY THEN, PLEASE TAKE CARE OF ME.
.....

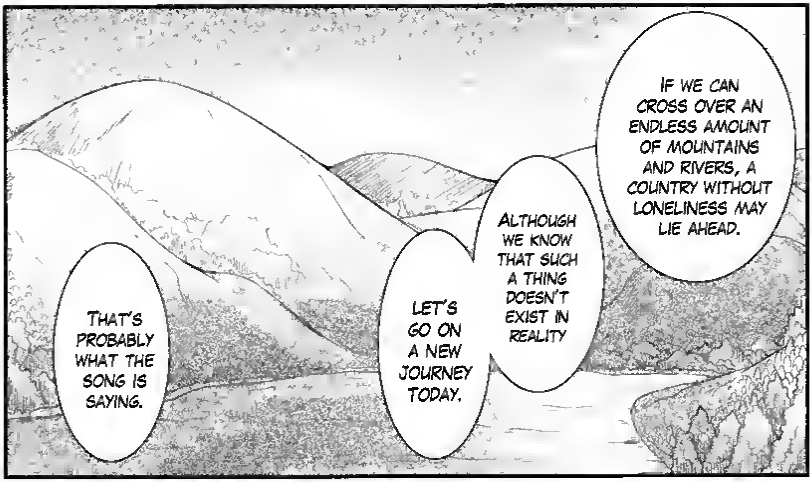
Phase.43　School

HMM.
.....
I DON'T REMEMBER HAVING MET KUZE-SAN THOUGH.
IS SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU?
AH, NO! IT'S NOTHING ...
OKAY.
THIS PERSON DOES SEEM SIMILAR TO HIMURA-SAN.

IN THE PAST, I LEARNED AN INTERESTING SONG FROM HIM,
THOUGH IT'S MORE LIKE A CLASSIC POEM
THAT'S RIGHT
BUT
IF HIMURA SAW THAT EXPRESSION, HE MIGHT TELL ME OFF AS IF I'D DONE SOMETHING.
Pat
Pat
EH!

Note: Wakayama Bokusui was a Japanese poet.

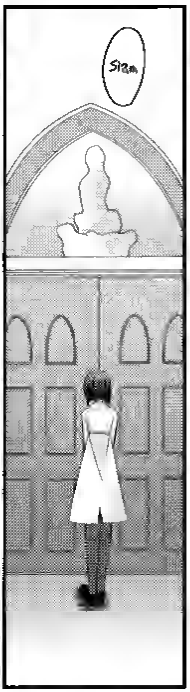
NO MATTER HOW MANY MOUNTAINS AND RIVERS, AS LONG AS WE CROSS OVER THEM, WE'LL SEE
THE COUNTRY WITHOUT LONELINESS. TODAY WE'LL ALSO GO ON A JOURNEY.
WAKAYAMA BOKUSUI
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?


IF WE CAN CROSS OVER AN ENDLESS AMOUNT OF MOUNTAINS AND RIVERS, A COUNTRY WITHOUT LONELINESS MAY LIE AHEAD.
ALTHOUGH WE KNOW THAT SUCH A THING DOESN'T EXIST IN REALITY
LET'S GO ON A NEW JOURNEY TODAY.
THAT'S PROBABLY WHAT THE SONG IS SAYING.

THAT'S ABOUT ME?
NO...
IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO. IT WAS SOMEONE OTHER THAN YOU THAT MADE ME REMEMBER IT.
SOMEONE OTHER THAN ME-

SPEAKING OF WHICH, I
DON'T REALLY KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIMURA-SAN.
ONLY A FEW OF HIS ACQUAINTANCES BEFORE THE ACCIDENT-

Haa.


Sigh.

JUST A MOMENT, I'LL CALL HIMURA.

...IT'S COLD.

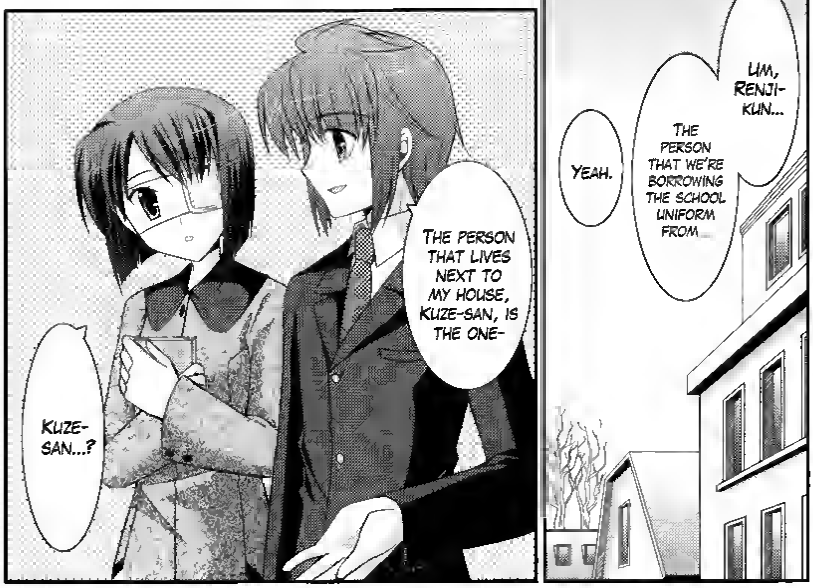
...?
OKAY.

WELCOME BACK, CHIHIRO.
ギッ
I'M HOME.
WAS TODAY ENJOYABLE AS WELL?
YEAH, VERY.
I SEE, THAT'S GOOD.
WAS IT BECAUSE KUZE ESCORTED YOU BACK?

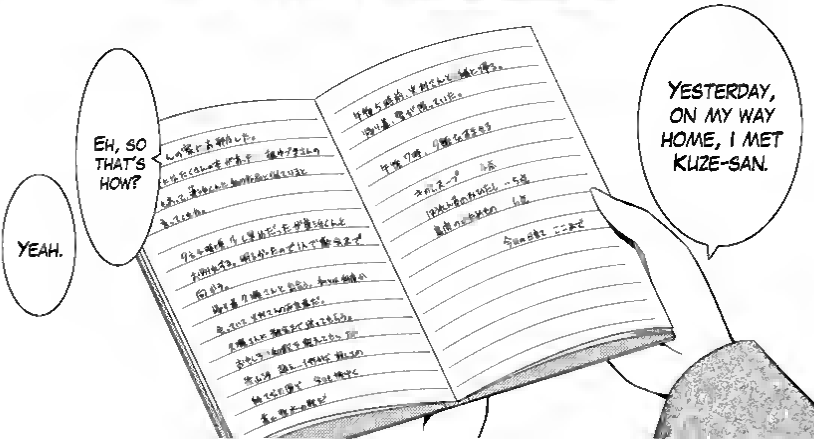
HIMURA-SAN'S HAND IS SO GENTLE,
BUT
WELL THEN, LET'S HEAD BACK.
THE WAY HE TOUCHES WITHOUT WARMTH
FEELS LIKE HE'S FAR AWAY ..
BE CAREFUL.

IT SEEMS AS IF EVERY-ONE I SEE EXISTS AT A DISTAN-CE
ONLY RENJI KUN SEEMS TO BE CLOSE HOWEVER
THAT COULD JUST BE AN ILLUSION
BECAUSE ONCE TO-MORROW CO
THAT MEMORY WILL DISAPPEAR...

Aw
Aw
Aw
Haa
Haa
CHIHIRO-!
HAA... HAA... HELLO!
RENJI-KUN... RIGHT?
WHAT'S WRONG, THAT YOU'RE IN SUCH A HURRY?
EH...?
I SAID IT YESTERDAY, ABOUT THE SCHOOL UNIFORM...
Haa
Haa
IT SEEMS LIKE I WAS ABLE TO GET A HOLD OF IT.
LET'S HEAD OVER TO THAT PERSON'S HOME RIGHT AWAY!


UM, RENJI-KUN...
THE PERSON THAT WE'RE BORROWING THE SCHOOL UNIFORM FROM...
YEAH.
THE PERSON THAT LIVES NEXT TO MY HOUSE, KUZE-SAN, IS THE ONE-
KUZE-SAN...?

EH, DO YOU KNOW KUZE-SAN?


YESTERDAY, ON MY WAY HOME, I MET KUZE-SAN.
EH, SO THAT'S HOW?
YEAH.

He's Himura-san's friend.
Yeah, looks that way.
I see if he's already met Chihiro, then it won't take long.
ピンポーン
ガチャっ
Yo. Renji.
...and Chihiro-chan?
Hello, Kuze-san. Thanks for taking care of me yesterday.
It's nothing, really.
Kuze-san, about the school uniform we talked about yesterday..

AAH, I HAVE IT PREPARED.
ANYWAY, PLEASE COME IN.
IT MIGHT BE A BIT BIG, BUT IT'LL PROBABLY BE ALRIGHT, I THINK.
...YOU REALLY HAD IT.
WHEN YOU'RE BORED OF DOING THE SAME THING, WEARING IT AND TAKING HALF OF IT OFF FEELS AMAZING, YOU KNOW?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL US THAT SORT OF THING...
UM..
WHAT SORT OF THING?
.....
?

KUZE-SAN!!
RENJI WANTS TO SEE HOW YOU LOOK IMMEDIATELY, RIGHT?
IT'D BE BETTER IF YOU CHECK THE SIZE OF IT RIGHT NOW.
OF COURSE
EH... IS THAT ALRIGHT?

CHIHIRO-CHAN, IF IT'S ALRIGHT, TRY IT ON RIGHT NOW.

GO AND TRY IT ON, CHIHIRO.

UM...

JUST GO INTO THAT ROOM AND CHANGE.

SFX: Door Closes
AH OKAY
THEN...
ばたん
...OTOWA ACADEMY'S UNIFORM...
SAY,
YESTERDAY, IT WAS QUITE SUDDEN WHEN YOU ASKED, "DO YOU HAVE A GIRL'S UNIFORM".
I WAS REALLY SHOCKED THAT YOU WERE INTO GIRL'S OUTFITS.
..DO I LOOK LIKE I HAVE THAT KIND OF INTEREST?

I THINK IT WOULD FIT YOU? NO, IT'S NOT A JOKE.
.....
I SERI-- OUSLY DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS PERSON IS THINKING...
SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHY DOES MY MOTHER KNOW ABOUT YOU HAVING A UNIFORM?
EH?
I WANTED HER TO WEAR IT.
I THOUGHT IT'D SUIT HER, BUT SHE POLITELY REFUSED.
THIS PERSON'S FOR REAL ...!!
Why are you backing away?

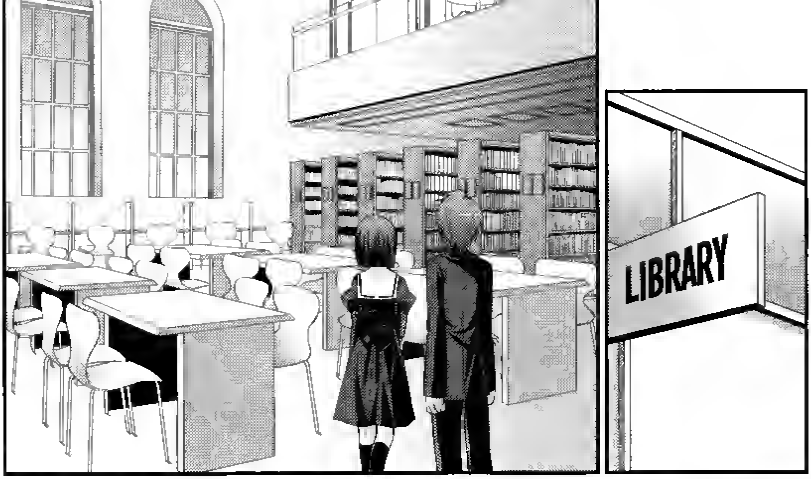
THE UNIFORM. IT'S FINE THAT IT'S FROM OTOWA, RIGHT?
...I DON'T REALLY WANT TO KNOW, BUT
Dodges-
YOU HAVE OTHER KINDS?
AS LONG AS YOU ASK, I'D HAVE ALMOST ANY TYPE AT MY DISPOSAL.
.....
HMM... WELL
WHEN YOU'RE ALSO STUCK IN A RUT, DON'T HOLD BACK TO ASK ONII-SAN!
I'M FINE!
BESIDES, I DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF INTEREST!!
UM... I'VE FINISHED CHANGING
Opens
ひょこ」

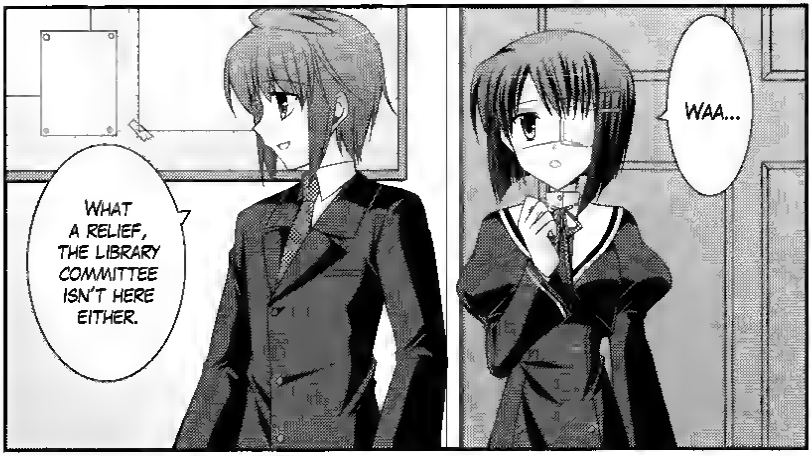
HOHO..
THIS SURE IS...
.....
SFX: Blush
UM... RENJI-KUN, HOW IS IT?
Y-YEAH...IT REALLY SUITS YOU, Y-YEAH.. IT REALLY SUITS YOU
THIS IS BAD... I THOUGHT I'D BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO SEEING OTOWA'S UNIFORM BUT
SHE'S CUTE
I'M SO GLAD...
AAH, IT SURE IS GOOD TO BE YOUNG~
EVEN I'M FEELING BITTER-SWEET
KUZE-SAN.. THAT WAY OF TALKING IS VERY MUCH LIKE AN OLD MAN

CHIHIRO-CHAN, HOW'S THE SIZE?
OH, RIGHT. THERE'S NO PROBLEM, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
UM... RENJI-KUN.
The same uniform as Onee-chan...
I HAVE A
REQUEST..

AHUU...
SOMEHOW I'M FEELING A BIT NERVOUS...
DON'T WORRY. IT'S AFTER SCHOOL ANYWAY, SO JUST ACT NORMAL AND NO ONE WILL SUSPECT A THING
BUT...IS IT REALLY OKAY?
WE BORROWED THAT UNIFORM FOR THIS PURPOSE,
AND YOU WERE THE ONE THAT SAID "I WANT TO GO SEE THE SCHOOL NOW?"
UU...
ALL RIGHT, WE'VE ALREADY MADE IT ALL THE WAY HERE
LET'S GO TO THE LIBRARY
O-OKAY...

HEY,
THERE'S NO ONE AROUND SO ISN'T IT FINE?
.....
CHI-HIRO?
...SCHOOL.
SOMEHOW IT FEELS CLOSE, YET...
SO FAR AWAY.
...I SEE.


LIBRARY


WAA...
WHAT A RELIEF, THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE ISN'T HERE EITHER.

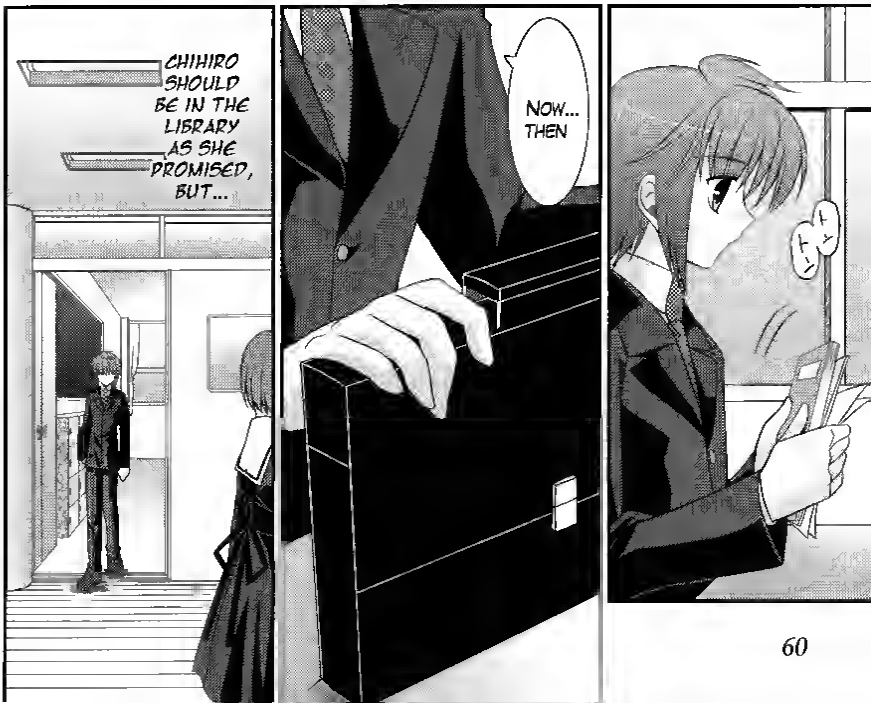
IT SMELLS LIKE BOOKS ...
CHIHIRO REALLY LIKES BOOKS, HUH?

EH... IS THAT REALLY OKAY?
SINCE IT'S SUCH A RARE OPPORTUNITY, JUST LOOK AROUND FREELY AND READ SOME BOOKS TODAY.
I'LL BE READING ALONG WITH YOU.
AH, YEAH.
YOU WANTED TO WRITE THE STORY UNDER THE ATMOSPHERE OF LOTS OF BOOKS, RIGHT?

ふむ
.....
WHEN SHE'S IN HER CASUAL CLOTHES, SHE LOOKS YOUNGER, BUT
IN A UNIFORM HER IMPRESSION CHANGES.
...IN THIS MANNER

BECAUSE IT WAS SUNSET, I WAS UNABLE TO SEE CHIHIRO'S EXPRESSION CLEARLY... BUT
I'D NEVER EVEN CONSI-DERED.
IN THIS MANNER, BEING ABLE TO READ A BOOK AT SCHOOL AGAIN... SUCH A THING,
UP UNTIL NOW
THAT VOICE WAS THE MOST GENTLE VOICE I HAD EVER HEARD.
THANK YOU
RENJI-KUN.

ALRIGHT, TODAY'S CLASSES WILL END HERE...

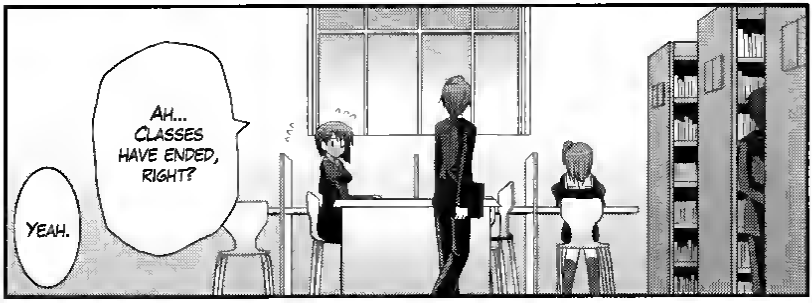

CHIHIRO SHOULD BE IN THE LIBRARY AS SHE PROMISED, BUT...
NOW... THEN

CREAK
THERE SHE IS...

.....

HELLO. CHIHIRO, IT'S RENJI.
... HELLO.

Eh


AH... CLASSES HAVE ENDED, RIGHT?
YEAH.

WHEN DID YOU GET HERE?
DURING LUNCH BREAK...

I THOUGHT THAT I WOULD STAND OUT THE LEAST AROUND THAT TIME.

...COULD IT BE, THAT IT WAS HARD GETTING IN?
JUST A BIT...
BUT IT'S FINE SINCE I WAS ABLE TO OBTAIN SEVERAL REFEREN-CES.
I SEE.
THEN, NO MATTER HOW LONG IT MAY TAKE, LET'S BEGIN WRITING THE NOVEL TODAY.
AL-RIGHT.
I'M READY.

ef

a fairy tale of the two.

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a fairy tale of the two.
RAWS: JCAFE
TRANSLATION: DAYDREAM
PROOFREADING: LINKTRIFORCE007
EDITORS: LINKTRIFORCE007, RINGOCYGNUS
PHASE 43: SCHOOL

ONE DAY, THE GIRL FOUND PLANT SEEDS IN THE STORAGE ROOM.
AFTERWARDS, SHE PLANTED THE SEEDS IN THE MANSION'S GARDEN.
THIS WAS BECAUSE SHE WANTED TO SEE THE BEAUTIFUL RED FRUIT, KNOWN AS STRAWBERRY THAT WAS PRINTED ON THE BAG CONTAINING THE SEEDS

SHE FOLLOWED WHAT THE GARDENING BOOK SAID, LOOSENING THE SOIL, SPREADING OUT THE SEEDS, AND WATERING THEM AS WELL.
HOWEVER, NO ROOTS CAME OUT, AND NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES SHE REPEATED THE SAME ACTIONS, SHE COULD NOT MAKE THE SEEDS BEAR FRUIT.
EVEN WHEN THE ROOTS SPROUTED, THEY WOULD END UP WILTING IMMEDIA-TELY
SHE THEN UNDERSTOOD THAT IN ORDER TO HARVEST A SEED, THE SOIL, SEASON, AND A LARGE AMOUNT OF TIME WOULD BE ESSENTIAL.
IN THIS MANNER, SHE LEARNED THROUGH ONE FAILURE AFTER ANOTHER.

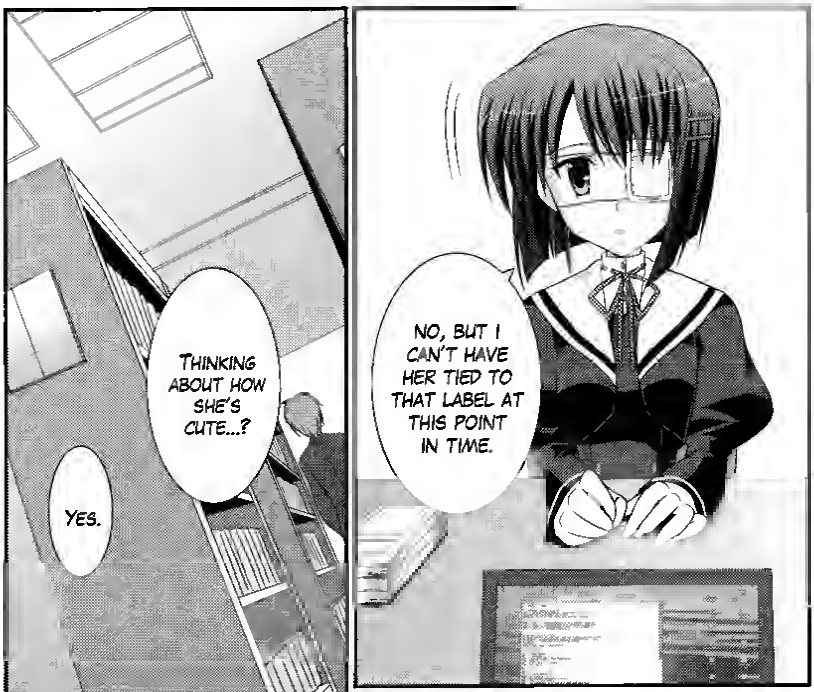
IT WAS BECAUSE SHE LEARNED ABOUT THE RAISING OF A SIGNAL FIRE IN A USELESS BOOK THAT HAD BEEN WHAT PEOPLE HAD DONE WHEN THEY WERE WASHED TO THE SHORE OF AN "ISLAND".
THE NEXT DAY, SHE BUILT A FIRE NEAR THE SHORE.
AS THE WHITE SMOKE ROSE SHE THOUGHT THAT IT COULD BE THE SAME AS THE CLOUDS, BUT AS SHE PUT HER FACE IN IT SHE ENDED UP COUGHING
MOVING BACK IN PANIC, SHE STARED AT IT FROM A DISTANCE.
OF COURSE, THE FIRE EVEN-TUALLY BURNT OUT.
THAT WAS HOW IT WAS IT WAS SOMETHING THAT COULDN'T BE HELPED
SO THE GIRL REALIZED-

Phase.44

Swelling Emotions

...I SEE.
THIS GIRL SURE HAS SOME UNEXPECTED CUTE SIDES.
...CUTE?
YEAH.
FOR EXAMPLE, THE WAY SHE CONTINUES TO NEVER GIVE UP, NO MATTER HOW MANY FAILURES, IS INTERESTING.
I... SEE.
?

AS I THOUGHT, I SHOULD PROBABLY START OVER...
EH, WHY?
BECAUSE YOU SAID SHE WAS CUTE.
IS THAT A BAD THING?


NO, BUT I CAN'T HAVE HER TIED TO THAT LABEL AT THIS POINT IN TIME.
THINKING ABOUT HOW SHE'S CUTE...?
YES.

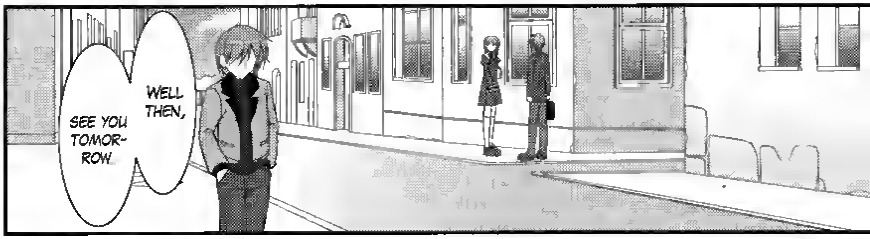
This girl is supposed to be stranger.
When she does something that we consider as foolish,
It should bring an eerie feeling...
If it's just "cute" or "interesting"...
Um...
.....
Renji-kun.

THANK YOU.
IS THIS REALLY ALL RIGHT?
.....
EVEN IF IT WAS JUST A LITTLE, I THOUGHT I COULD BE OF SOME HELP DESPITE HAVING STARTED ON THIS NOVEL,
CHIHIRO'S WAY OF THINKING IS BEYOND MY GRASP NO—
Is sister doing burning?
MAYBE IT'S JUST THAT I'M TOO NORMAL

PEOPLE WITH TALENT MAKE ME JEALOUS.
NOT JUST TALENT, ALSO OF THE PEOPLE THAT HAVE GOALS.

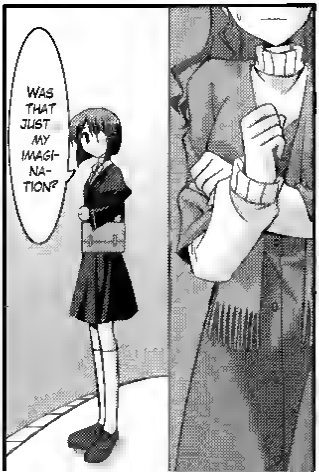
I-

WHAT HOPES DO I REALLY
HAVE IN CHIHIRO?


WELL THEN,
SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW.

YEAH, SEE YOU TOMORROW.

?


WAS THAT JUST MY IMAGI-NATION?

ぶるっ
AH...
AAHN.
I GOT CAUGHT ~~♡
SORRY, I DIDN'T PLAN ON FOLLOWING YOU.
EHH..
UH.. UM...
RENJI WAS ALSO WITH YOU, I COULDN'T CALL OUT TO HIM~
AH..

THANK YOU YOUR HOSPITALITY THE OTHER DAY.
IT'S NOTHING, IT'S NOTHING.
COME BACK TO PLAY ANY TIME.
ARE YOU RENJI-KUN'S MOTHER?
THAT'S RIGHT.
HEY, CHIHIRO-CHAN,
BUMPING INTO YOU HERE IS QUITE A COINCI-DENCE.
IF IT'S FINE WITH YOU, COULD WE HAVE SOME TEA OVER THERE?
EH...? RIGHT NOW?
IF YOU HAVE A CURFEW, THEN I SUPPOSE THERE'S NO HELPING IT.

NO.
AS LONG AS I GET HOME BEFORE IX, IT'LL BE FINE
THEN, WE'RE SET!!

EH! EH...?
きら
きら
きら
THERE'S A DELICIOUS CAKE STORE NEARBY.
LET'S GO EAT THERE TOGETHER!

Let's talk about
Renji-kun
カアア
UAH...
S-SURE...

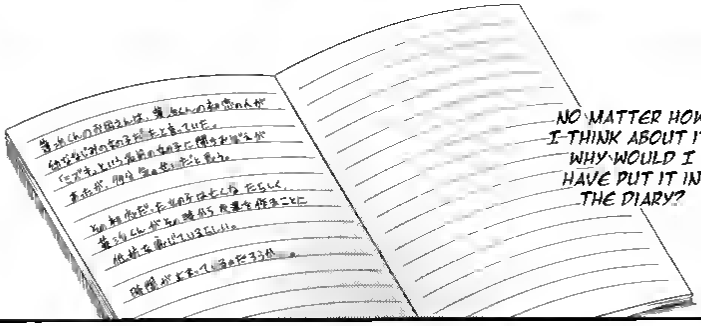
キーン
コーン
カーン
コーン
……
UM,
WHAT'S WRONG?
AH! IT'S NOTHING
REALLY?
……
I SEE-

YOUR FIRST LOVE WAS A GUY FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD, RIGHT?
YES.
HE'S GOOD AT DRAWING, AND WAS ALWAYS PLAYING WITH MY OLDER SISTER, WHILE I LOOKED FROM A DISTANCE.
FHUFHU! IT'S MAKING MY HEART RACE!
RENJI'S FIRST LOVE HMM... WAS PROBABLY HIS COUSIN, MIZUKI-CHAN.
THE TWO OF THEM REALLY GOT ALONG.
THAT WAS ONLY WHEN THEY WERE [illegible]. THOUGH SAYING THAT THEY WERE GOING TO GET MARRIED—
SUCH JOKES.
AH...
I MESSED UP.
I FAILED.

WHAT DID YOU MESS UP ON?
NOTHING BIG.
...WOULD IT BE BETTER IF I DIDN'T LISTEN?
CHIHIRO-CHAN ALREADY SPOKE ABOUT HERSELF. NOT SAYING ANYTHING WOULD BE WRONG.
MIZUKI-CHAN, RENJI'S FIRST LOVE, IS GONE, SO
EVERYTHING ENDED.
GONE?

SHE DIED.
IT WAS ALSO PROBABLY AT THAT TIME THAT
HE COULDN'T MAKE ANY FRIENDS.
SORRY
I JUST WANTED TO HEAR ABOUT CHIHIRO-CHAN'S FIRST LOVE...
I ACCIDENTALLY BLEW MYSELF OVER.
AH...NO, IT'S OKAY
BECAUSE I WILL FORGET.

"BECAUSE I WILL FORGET."


THE ME YESTERDAY...
NO MATTER HOW I THINK ABOUT IT, WHY WOULD I HAVE PUT IT IN THE DIARY?

BEFORE ME,
THERE WAS A GIRL THAT DISAPPEARED IN FRONT OF RENJI-KUN...
カタン
HOW'S IT GOING, CHIHIRO?
DID YOU MAKE ANY PROGRESS?

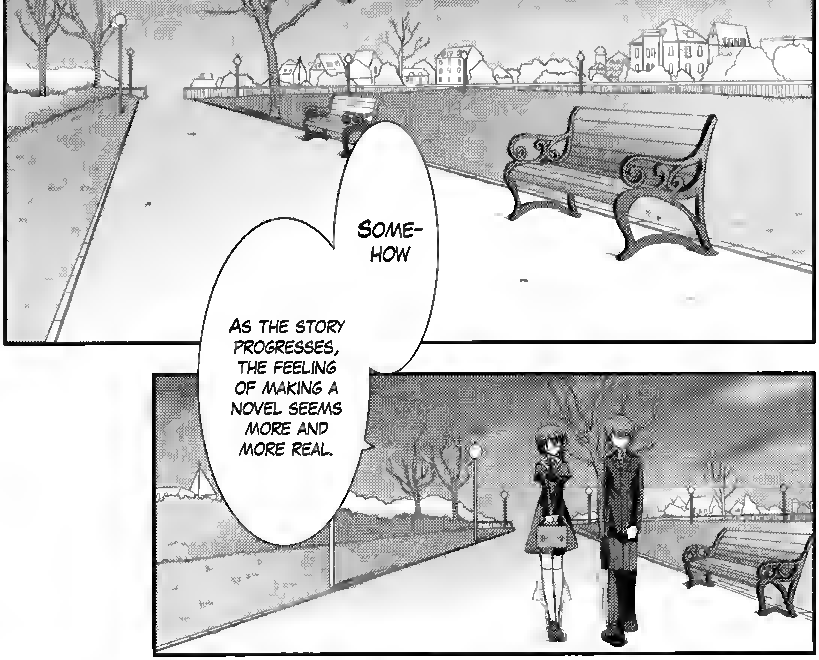
AH, YES.
JUST A BIT...

—SINCE WHEN DID THIS ALL BEGIN?

I WANT TO ALWAYS BE LIKE THIS WITH RENJI-KUN

...I SEE.
STARTING WITH THE INTEREST IN THE EXISTENCE OF HUMANS, THEN, IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND THAT, SHE BEGAN TO DRAW THE ART OF HUMANS. ?
HOW-EVER..
THERE'S A PART THAT CONCERNS YOU?
HOW DO YOU SEE THE IDEA OF HOW THE GIRL STARTS DRAWING IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND HUMANS?
WELL, IF THAT'S HOW IT IS
I GUESS WE'D HAVE TO START FROM THE BEGINNING AND REWRITE IT—
I GUESS SO..

ANYWAY,
WE'LL PROGRESS ON THE STORY LIKE THIS, AND WHEN WE SEE A PROBLEM, WE'LL FIX IT THEN.
BUT... HOW LONG WILL WE BE ABLE TO DO THINGS LIKE THIS?
OKAY.
TO BE WITH ME
MAY EVEN BE A BIG BURDEN TO RENJI-KUN
WHEN THE STORY REACHES AN END
WILL THE STORY OF RENJI-KUN AND I ALSO END—?


SOME-
HOW
AS THE STORY PROGRESSES, THE FEELING OF MAKING A NOVEL SEEMS MORE AND MORE REAL.

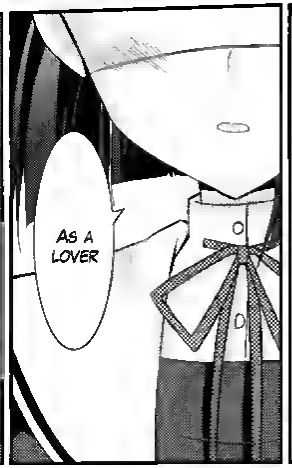
IF CHIHIRO HAD SAID THAT, I'D FEEL BETTER.
THOUGH, IT SEEMS LIKE I HAVEN'T REALLY DONE ANYTHING.

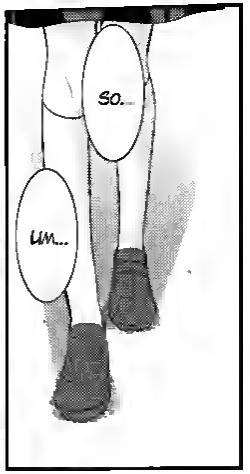
IT'S BECAUSE I'M WITH RENJI-KUN,
THAT I CAN CONTINUE WRITING WITHOUT GIVING UP.

UM...
THANK YOU.
THE STORY...
EVEN IF IT ENDS
?
YOU'RE WELCOME.
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
UM... RENJI-KUN.
I—

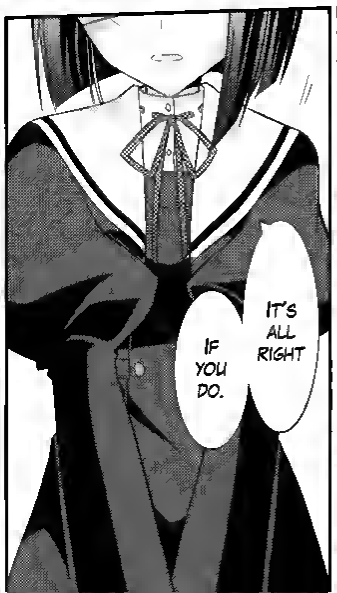
DO YOU
WANT TO KISS ME?

KISS... ME IF YOU WANT TO.


AS A LOVER


SO...
UM...

.....
THAT WAY, IT'LL BE LIKE A PROMISE FOR RENJI-KUN TO CONTINUE MEETING... WITH ME.


IT'S ALL RIGHT IF YOU DO.

...EH?

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RAWS: JCAFE
TRANSLATION: BATDREAM
PROOFREADING: LINKTRIFORCE007
EDITORS: LINKTRIFORCE007, RINGOCYGNUS
PHASE 44: SWELLING EMOTIONS